



SENTINEL NATION

This week the Sentinel Call was live from Ft. Worth, Texas! We are so excited that Heritage Action Sentinels will be gathering again later this year in Ft. Worth for Sentinel Summit, November 10-12th! This event will be a time for all Sentinels to gather, fellowship, and strategize for the fights ahead. To register and for travel details, go to sentinelsummit2022.com. We hope to see you there!



Both the House and Senate are in recess, and Vice President Garrett Bess walked through the upcoming fights this fall. If you missed the Sentinel Call, you can listen to the recording [HERE](#).

Government Spending

Current government spending will expire at the end of September. Congress will take up legislation for government funding likely between mid-to-late September, which will most likely be a continuing resolution. Continuing resolutions simply extend current spending policy to a new date. There will be two large questions:

1. **New expiration date for government funding.** If they set the new expiration date for funding during “lame duck,” that will give fertile ground to ram through an omnibus spending agreement that includes a host of Left-wing priorities. *Lame duck* is the period that occurs after an election, but before the new legislators are sworn into office. It gives

significant opportunity for Congress to maneuver outside the will of voters, and pass legislation that may look very different than it would if crafted by the legislators who voters just elected.

2. **Ukraine funding.** Current funding for Ukraine also expires in September, and there are rumors that \$100 billion in additional aid for Ukraine may be attached to the spending bill, though the amount could be larger or smaller. Heritage Action took a firm position to oppose the \$40 billion that Congress passed earlier this year because it failed to provide any offsets in spending or ensure any type of oversight.

Sentinels should urge Congress to pass a continuing resolution that extends current spending levels into the first quarter of 2023. They should let the American people's voices be heard in the fall elections, and allow a new Congress to act.

In a new Congress, there should be a regular appropriations process that happens in full view of the American people. When conservatives lose, it is because of behind the scenes negotiations. This fight matters not just because of spending levels. If conservatives are able to deny Democrats the ability to pass an omnibus spending bill in December, that positions them to win on other issues and defeat Left-wing policies that might get attached.

Redefining Marriage

In September, the Senate may hold a vote on the so-called Respect for Marriage Act (H.R.8404). This bill is not about marriage, but about imposing the Left's radical ideology. The bill goes beyond simply the issue of same-sex unions, but also would require federal recognition of polygamy and threatens religious liberty. Read [The Heritage Foundations FAQ on H.R. 8404.](#)

Earning a Mandate

As conservatives, we know it's not enough just to win elections. There are a few things for Sentinels to know in the coming weeks, as we lay groundwork for conservative policy wins.

Current polling: Polling in March 2022 was showing the same levels of intensity among voters in their resolve to show up at the polls, as was seen in October 2010. That year brought a huge sweep of Republican victories not only in Congress, but also downstream in state legislatures across the country. If that energy is maintained through the end of the year, we could see similar turnout.

The path to a majority: While parties have largely carved out districts, limiting the number of seats that may swing, there could be 20 seats that switch parties in the House. While Democrats are becoming reenergized, they do not appear to be winning independents. While an issue like abortion generates some enthusiasm, it is not a top-twenty priority that swings voters. Depending on how strong of a campaign Republicans run, they could gain as many as 30-

35 seats in the House. The Senate, currently at a 50-50 split, will be a much more competitive race for which party gains a majority.

Process is policy: As Sentinels, we know it is not enough to win elections or demand conservative policy. Process also can control policy outcomes. Republicans won significant majorities in 2010, but underperformed in 2011 on the promises they made on the campaign trail. Shifting goal posts turned \$100 billion in spending cuts from occurring in appropriations to authorizations, then from one year to over 10 years. While H.R. 1 was passing on the floor with amendments, at the same time, closed door negotiations were undercutting conservatives. This is why it's important for Sentinels to not just know the policy, but also the process.

Setting a policy agenda: As Sentinels, we can begin playing a role now in setting the policy agenda for 2023. One debate among particularly Senate Republicans is whether to be ambiguous and let voters project their agenda, or to tell voters what they intend to do and win a mandate to govern. **Sentinels can encourage a conservative agenda by asking candidates their plan and top three agenda items.**

Current and future elected officials will be on the campaign trail this fall, and Sentinels should take advantage of opportunities in the coming weeks to build relationships with their future legislators. Be sure to grab their business card!

Thank you for all your work!

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